

THE HOME, ITS PROBLEMS AND ITS INTERESTS



A DINNER COAT THE LATEST FASHION.

The dinner coat of which we hear rumors in the late winter is here in all its smartness this summer. It may be of thin, flowered silk, as in the illustration, or of lace, tinted to harmonize with the skirt with which it is worn. These dinner coats are almost invariably worn with plain skirts of supple smooth-faced cloth or chiffon. The coat itself is quite long, reaching half way to the knee and fitted in closely draped lines at the bust and waist, and, as in the example, opens over a low-cut waistcoat, ornamented with rare buttons. The collar and revers are of handsome lace, and the chemise, with old-fashioned stock and lace tie, further enhances the dressy appearance. The sleeves have flaring cuffs set on at the elbow, with frills of lace as a finish. This coat is of lavender silk, printed in dull greens and pinks, and is worn with a skirt of lavender chiffon cloth.

DAINTY CHINA MAKES NICE GIFTS FOR JUNE BRIDES

Now that smart folk are using dinner services of mixed china, its possibilities are worth considering as a gift for June brides. Time was when every course must be served upon plates of the same pattern, but within the past few years this has become a matter of option merely, and the present fad is for a separate service with each change.

Extra Large.

The outer rims especially are profusely ornamented, for these plates are large enough to show the entire design of the edges beyond the rim of the soup plate when that is set upon them. Place plates are left until the meat, and then removed, or may be taken away after the soup if preferred. Fish is no longer served on plates bearing portraits of various royal species. It is strange that the fad for these "fish sets" should ever have existed, but one is glad to chronicle its demise with that of the dining room panel-painted with the courses of rabbits and birds. Fish may be served now on plates a size smaller than those used for meat.

Any form of plate decoration is permissible save "still life." Either place plates or fish services, of each a dozen or half dozen, are most acceptable bridal gifts. Entree plates may be the same size as those used for fish, or they may be a shade smaller. These, too, are very heavily embossed and ornamented. Indeed the simple rosebud designs so much liked a season or two ago have been quite eclipsed by the new heavy patterns of gold and colors. While sets of plates from place plates to those used for the finger bowl may be sent in dozens or half dozens, there is no doubt that the full dinner service as a gift for weddings.

Beautiful services may be had complete from \$50 upward, or if one prefers the cheaper sets, they are to be had at \$15 and \$20. These contain one hundred and twenty to one hundred and forty pieces. Sets for country homes also are sold at this price, and very charming they are, of white china in rather a heavy grade, with bright-colored tulips or roses as decoration.

Breakfast Services.

Gruel sets also are seen in attractive and dainty china. These are handy suitable for presents, except to an invalid, but they are a decided novelty. They consist of a bowl with cover, sugar and cream service and deep saucer in light pretty patterns.

The ice-water sets may be had in china of different colors to correspond with the guest room.

Breakfast services of old blue and white china are still much liked for country houses, and as most of these patterns come in what is called "open stock," they may easily be replenished.

Quite new are the silver-china individual breakfast sets. These consist of tray, coffee pot, cup and saucer, marmalade, with perforated cover for toast rack, porridge bowl, and cream and

sugar service. They are of fine white china, with an outside coating resembling silver. This process, which for many years was lost, has been revived again. It is exceedingly quaint and attractive, and will surely please the housewife who wishes to be prepared for guests who breakfast in bed. This, too, is a suitable and pretty gift for the bachelor girl, who "gets her own breakfast," for the service is charming enough to serve as an ornamental addition to a corner tea table.

Making Fancy Hosiery.

The demand for fancy hosiery is as great as ever this season, and in order to be in fashion and yet not stretch their pocketbooks too much many girls are putting their fine needlework into their summer hosiery.

It is very much less expensive to buy a pair of plain lace or silk stockings and do the lace inserting or embroidery yourself. The very newest stockings are of the finest silk, with elaborate hand-drawn work patterns on the order of Mexican embroidery. Less difficult for the amateur but scarcely less fashionable in reality, are insertions of lace or medallions. These are basted in place and appliqued round the edge, perhaps in the case of the medallions, buttonholed in long and short stitch, the stocking afterward being cut out behind the lace.

The ubiquitous spangie is in favor for evening hosiery, and these may also be added at home to the lace with most satisfactory results. Lace or cotton as well as silk stockings may be embroidered in wash silks at home, but it should be remembered that a cheap stocking will scarcely pay for the careful work and time spent in embellishing it, and in the end it will be found economical to purchase a good quality silk or silk rather than a cheap cotton for such a purpose.

A pretty design which may be carried out at home is to run a two-inch band of black lace up the front of the stocking above the knee, where the rest of the stocking is plain.

The skirt is in two parts, the upper smooth-fitting on the hips and flowing above the knees, where the rest of the skirt is joined to it in deep plaits.

The jacket is quite short and loose, with wide plaits at the waist. On each side, coming around from the back, is a narrow inletting of pale blue lined bordered at the ends by enamel buttons of the same hue. There are more of these buttons down the fronts and finishing off the straps that encircle the back and sides; but the final touch is given by the tiny piping at the neck and fronts that matches the deep red girdle.

The sleeves are plain and full, ending above the elbow with a narrow band.

Cracked Lips

These are often caused by ill health and indigestion. Put a little good cold cream in every night after washing, and overhaul your dietary, if you are troubled in this way and want to remedy the matter.

Never bite your lips, however rough and uncomfortable they may feel. Biting makes matters worse rather than better, and is likely to permanently spoil the outline of the lips and make them thick and ugly.—Home Notes.

TO KEEP THE HANDS FREE OF FRECKLES, TAN, AND BURN

Delicate Substitutes for Soap to Whiten and Soften Skin---Care of the Nails---Removing Stains.

Let girls who go forth at this season to play golf and tennis look to their hands unless they are willing to have those members tanned, burned or freckled in a way that will last all summer. She who really plays either of these games, finding her chiefest pleasure in the sport that begins with the fine weather, may be forgiven if her hands are not white and her nails are dried, but one who merely plays at it, going occasionally to the links or courts, does not get enough out of it to sacrifice what beauty she has, and should guard it accordingly.

No girl should ever be long in the hot sun without wearing gloves, the fingers of which are cut off. If the gloves are a size larger than she ordinarily wears they will in no way interfere with her holding a handle in firm grip, and they will absolutely prevent any tanning or burning. The very coolest and most satisfactory gloves for this purpose are white wash leather, which, when soiled, may be rinsed in soapy water and the fingers should always be cut off just above the middle joint. To be quite serviceable they must be a size too large.

Dainty Washing Powders.

Equipped with those a girl may be all day in the open air and her hands will show no effect of it. Without them, and she is apt to be without all too often, blemishes will appear that must be removed if she would look her best.

Dust and dirt acquired in summer by going without gloves is not best removed by soap unless one uses the purest quality. Even then the alkali may dry the skin, which makes dust the more readily held in the future, and some washing powder and pastes will be found far better suited to some hands. Soft water, to begin with, is necessary, and this is always to be had by putting either a pinch of borax or a few drops of toilet ammonia water in a basin of water. The one danger of either of these is that too great a quantity will be used at a time, which will dry the hands to their injury.

The most delicate washing powder is almond meal, which can be bought already prepared, but the best quality is more inexpensively made at home, and less than the best should never be used. To make it take four ounces of powdered blanched almonds, two ounces of powdered cuttlefish bone, two ounces of powdered olive oil soap, one ounce of powdered orris root, one-quarter of a pound of white wax, and one grain of oil of lavender. Mix the orris and the almonds, carefully adding the lavender and cuttlefish bone, and then mingle the two compounds. Sift several times through a coarse sieve, and the put into a glass jar in which is set a stopper. Use a little into the hands, wet them, and proceed as you would with soap. The result is of course, is not used.

Softening Pastes.

If the hands for any reason become really dirty do not clean without first using a very liberal application of grease. Cold cream is best for this.

FOR SUMMER DANCES

Description of a Pretty Frock Suitable for a Girl.

To many girls the summer means dances, small and large, but mostly the former; and for these she needs plenty of dainty wash frocks, with elbow sleeves and necks cut too low. This makes the blouse trimming of importance, and the blouse here manages the difficulty well, for cross tucks and bands of German Val fill up the space between the shoulders and the seam, while the insertion is also used to outline the yoke-like scheme of treatment.

The elbow sleeves are of moderate dimensions and are given graceful form by the much shirtings along the seam, while the cuffs are of insertion with double edgings of lace.

The skirt tucked to corset depth, has a full ruffle at the foot, its hem topped by several tucks and a three-inch ruffle of lace, while the waist is gathered in the same manner, but without using so many tucks. The upper portion of the skirt is gathered in, and the bands of insertion running down almost to the ruffle in tab arrangement, then going straight around toward the hem.

The girle as well as the breast and sleeve bows are of velvet and can be duplicated in as many colors as is desired.

The Going Away Gown.

Severe but chic cloth frocks are good models for the going-away gown, and the traveling coat also is a most practical and modish garment, useful for the inevitable motorizing as well as for traveling. In tulle, or net, the traveling coat would develop well, and a mohair coat of this type is a satisfactory garment for rough wear during warm weather.

The full redingote, favored by the brides at the waist and falling in ample folds almost to the bottom of the skirt, are given considerable favor as driving or traveling coats for the spring and summer season, and when well made are of good quality, are attractive, though not becoming to all figures. Shot silks in the soft old-time color combinations are especially liked for these frocks, but they are made too in the plain tulle, satins, and pongees.

Don'ts for the Stout Sister.

Don't use frills of any kind on a gown. Use flat trimmings. Don't wear wide belts. Don't trim skirts except at the bottom.

Don't wear a sleeve that is full below the elbow. Don't wear an Eton coat. Always have the coat-line extend as far below the elbow as possible.

Don't wear a tight-fitting corset if very stout. Don't wear bow ties. Wear something small and narrow if a tie is required. Don't wear fluffy things round the neck. Let the neck-finishing be as flat as possible.

Don't wear a high-cut décolletage. Have the low bodice cut to an extremity of décolleté, and build up the top with patchy effects to the required height.

Open Confession.

I do believe the English is still the most unduly woman in the world, even though she is improving, and does her hair better than she did.—The Gentlewoman.

although vaseline or anything of the sort will do. Smear a large quantity of it over the hands and rub and it will loosen the dirt more than soap or water. Rinse in quite warm water to remove the grease, and then wash the hands in the usual way either with soap or with a paste or powder.

These pastes or powders are sometimes an improvement over soap, and some are inexpensive, while others are very costly. One of the former, which will make the hands soft and white, is made of two ounces of carbonate of soda, two ounces of powdered marsh-mallow root and twelve ounces of oatmeal. Mix and use as you would soap. This is also good for the face, as is the almond powder. To remove stains from the hands keep on the washstand a jar in which is a mixture made of two ounces of castile soap dissolved in two ounces of lemon juice. Shave the soap and melt with the juice by putting the jar into a kettle of hot water. This is not to be used if there are cuts or other raw places, as it will smart badly.

If the hands have begun to show coloring from the sun, or to help prevent this, use a bleaching lotion that will at the same time soften the skin. It is made by taking one-half ounce of powdered almonds, four ounces of rose-water, one-quarter of a dram of borax and one-half dram of spirits of benzoin.

For the Nails.

Put the almond powder into the rose-water and let stand for twenty-four hours. Strain through a fine muslin, add the soda, and shake until it is dissolved. The benzoin is added last, drop by drop. If there are discolorations on the skin wipe this over full strength and let it dry on, but ordinarily put a teaspoonful into a basin of water. Soap or its equivalent should be used also.

The thing most carefully to be guarded against for the nails is a drying of the skin, which may be caused by the result from exposure to sun and air.

The simplest method is to rub cold cream into the fingers at night, which will ultimately tend to make the half-moon show more, and to improve the general shape and texture. This can be done as often as it will not soil the clothes. Wipe over the fingers with a towel after applying, but do not wash.

For dryness of the nails, which causes them to break easily, use a paste made of one-quarter ounce of almond oil, sixteen grains of common salt, sixteen and one-half grains of powdered resin, and the same quantity of powdered alum, forty grains of white wax, and one grain of carmine. Melt the wax and resin by putting them into a bowl set in a kettle of hot water, and when melted remove from the heat and beat in the oil, salt, alum, and carmine. Make into a smooth ball and put into a small jar. Rub well into the nails at night, allowing it to remain on.

It is, especially in summer when the hands are more exposed to stains, to keep a fresh lemon by the washstand to rub over the nails after washing. After using lemon juice, and before washing, always rub in cold cream that the skin may not be dried too much.

THE FAVORITE COLORS

This Year Faded and Artistic Colors Are in Vogue.

The greens are prominent both in millinery and frocks, and many new shades are shown, differing enough from the old tones, in some instances, to justify the statement that they are new. All of the bronze green tones from dark to light, the almond and willow greens, a line of elder greens, a fresh sprig-like tint, appropriate, called prinitaria, a warm glowing yellow, moss green, which is at times charming in its millinery uses, or startlingly used in mere leaving touches upon a white or neutral frock—all these are fashionable, and there is a vivid Russian green, successful in Paris, though not yet taken up extensively here.

All the delicate lavenders are in fashion, and begonia, a reddish purple with a dash of gray, is considered extremely French—as French as it is becoming. One could not well say more.

The salmon or Pompadour pinks, peach pink, melon pink, all the shades of rose, including dried rose leaf and old rose tones, the magenta pink of the old, the old gold, apricot and banana yellows, with the orange tones shading from mandarin to brown, the blue blues and a very popular medium shade of blue called saxe, the beige and straw colorings, dove grays—there one has a list of the colors most exploited this season, but one sees many shades not on this list.

A new French yellow and spring-like greens have been particularly affected for the bridesmaids' frocks at Easter weddings, though one wedding for which the costumes were turned out by a well-known house was in white and American Beauty shades, and another color scheme selected by one of the June brides is in pinkish lilac and pale creamy yellow.

Things That Count.

Small belongings of dress often make or mar a woman's appearance, therefore it is wise that she should keep an eye on the little fads and fancies of fashion.

Gloves this season will match the costume, at least they will correspond with its shade. Some of the newest have little turned back cuffs of contrasting color, and many of the long suede gloves are heavily embroidered. Embroidered silk gloves are shown in elbow length to meet the short sleeves of the new waists. For neck trimming there is a wide choice of velvet ribbons, lace, and lace which has been service on old gowns can be pressed into service for smart frocks if applied on net or on wide heavy lace inserts. Lace motifs, too, can be ripped from discarded blouses and similarly utilized.

A new French fad is the wearing of black velvet bands around the throat. These of course are intended for use with a necktie, but the velvet band is sometimes tied a little to the right of the front with loop ends allowed to drop almost to the waist. Embroidered bands in Paris at present. These may be strung together at home, using a small crystal bead between each link. The velvet band is quite large beads are the fad and crystal chains of graduated beads are also liked. A pretty chain for a young girl is made by stringing roses, or chiffon together at intervals on a silk cord. These are dainty adjuncts to an organdie or muslin frock.



FANCY COAT FOR WHITE DRESSES.

A fancy little coat of some sort is essential in every well-ordered summer wardrobe, and for wear with white lingerie gowns, the light flowered silk coat is exceedingly smart and very modish.

We show above an ideal suggestion for such a garment, and one which any clever home dressmaker should easily copy. The material is pale green silk strewn with peach blossoms in natural tones, and the round flat collar and girdle are green chiffon velvet. Two deep tucks and a frill of cream lace finish the short sleeves.

Flowers for the Girl Graduates Should Be Tied With Chiffon

Flowers for graduation exercises must be tied with huge loops of fluffy chiffon in colors to harmonize or contrast with the bouquet, to be up to date this season.

Young women who have received them fastened with ribbons feel there is something lacking, for long-stemmed roses loosely held together by four large chiffon loops, with four long ends, look so different from the old-fashioned way of arranging them that the gifts are quite as acceptable for their artistic decoration as for the beauty of the blossoms.

Yellow roses with long stems are most attractive tied with this material in white. So are American Beauties. Deep pink roses make a beautiful contrast, adorned with pink or white, or the class colors may be used if they seem more appropriate and do not detract from the color of the flowers.

Must Have Long Stems.

In making these elaborate bunches it is necessary to have long stems to properly carry the yards of chiffon used in tying. After passing it around the stems two or three times knot at a distance of six or eight inches from the blossoms, then make four long loops that will fall almost to the ends of the stems, as the four ends of the val-ley roses are pulled out the bouquet looks larger because of their crispness, and are just like a pretty picture," as a smart girl graduate said. For the girl who becomes a bride the "shower" bouquet of white flowers, usually white roses or lilies of the valley, are as popular for June weddings as they were last winter. The prevailing idea is to have them as natural as possible and to tie them loosely to prevent any suggestion of stiffness. In making the shower start below the buds and use as many yards of white baby ribbon with lilies of the valley headed as in as you can without making the bouquet crowded. The shower falls sometimes from a bouquet above. It is a mistake to have the bridesmaids' bouquets arranged in showers, for these are to be used only by brides. A pretty idea of flowers for them and one that is popular now, and has been followed at several of the big society weddings, is the carrying of big straw hats filled with flowers.

These hat baskets are in any color straw desired, white, of course, being most frequently selected. They are big, round and of loose straw, with a narrow crown and big brim, that is turned up and sewed to the middle of the crown to make the basket.

Bridesmaids' Floral Hats.

White or pink roses or lilies of the valley, whatever flowers the girls carry, are tucked into the brim on either side of the crown to which it is sewed. At the bottom of the turn in the brim a big bow of satin ribbon is tied. Another one is sewed to the edge of the brim to cover the stitches which hold it to the crown, and a third one at the outer edge of the brim makes the loop by which the hat is carried over the wrist.

Loose flowers are now usually sent to mothers and new babies. American Beauty roses to the parent and small pink or white rosebuds or lilies of the valley to baby. Occasionally the gift for the little one is tied with baby ribbon, pink being used for a boy and blue if a little girl is the recipient.

Never send flowers that give out sweet or strong aroma, to a person who is ill, and select bright colors, that make the room look cheerful. Red roses are possibly the best kind to choose, and buy them with long stems so that they will last. An expert market says that many of the blossoms wilt in one day, even when put in water, because the stem is not deep enough to properly nourish the bloom. Enough water should be put in a deep vase to feed the stems and almost touch the petals. This will prevent the rose drooping over and wilting for lack of water, as we so often see them after they have been kept but a short time.

A new fashion this year is to send

potted plants as christening gifts for infants or vases filled with lilies of the valley or pink or white rosebuds. Small flowers are the best kind to choose for such a gift, whether they are sent in a vase, potted or loose in baskets, as many prefer.

Emeralds in Fashion.

Emeralds are coming so much into fashion just now that they are, as a natural consequence, rapidly rising in price, and promise to be one of the favorite and most expensive stones of the coming season.

The Queen owns a parure of emeralds that is worth a king's ransom; Princess Charles of Denmark has one hundred emeralds of large size and first quality which forms a flexible waist belt; and stones in the possession of the Duchess of Buccleuch and Lady Aberdeen are precious gems.

The Duchess of Marlborough, who so seldom wears any jewels but her famous pearls and diamonds, caused a mild sensation at Dublin castle one night last week by wearing a magnificent new ornament of emeralds.

Lady Carew has a fine tiara of emeralds, and she also owns an exceptionally splendid stone which she presented to her by the Shah of Persia. Mrs. William James, the trellis work collar of emeralds and diamonds, while Lady Carew, Lady Ludlow, Mrs. Ronald Grenville and Mrs. Arthur Paget all have small fortunes wrapped up in these green gems.

Square emeralds are a current craze, or sash-ties, and tend to prevent ickiness. Chemical food which consists of the syrup of phosphates may be given at the same time.—Home Chat.

Weak-Legged Puppies.

If a puppy is weak on its legs the addition of lime water to its milk is of great benefit, and tends to prevent ickiness. Chemical food which consists of the syrup of phosphates may be given at the same time.—Home Chat.

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